

Please cancel claims 7-17, without prejudice or disclaimer, subject to the restriction requirement of June 24, 1999.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 18-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification, as well as the original claims. No new matter has been added by way of amendment. Re-examination and reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments are respectfully requested.

The invention is drawn to anti-thrombin proteins and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the proteins. The proteins, designated simulidin, are isolatable from black flies. The proteins function to delay homeostasis by the abrogation of clotting. The proteins eliminate the formation of a fibrin network through initiation of the alpha-form of thrombin. Additionally, the proteins function to inhibit platelet aggregation that is stimulated by thrombin. The amino acid sequence of the protein is set forth in the amended claims and was provided in the application in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Applicants herein affirm the election of Group I, claims 1-6 and 18-20. The election is made without traverse. Claims 7-17 have been cancelled as drawn to a non-elected invention.

The correction to the sequence listing by deleting *ending* stop codon in amino acid sequence 2 and adjusting the "(A) Length:" field accordingly is noted.

The Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112 Should be Withdrawn:

Claims 1, 6, 20 and dependent claims 2-5 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as indefinite. This rejection has been obviated by amendment.

The Examiner indicates that claims 1, 6, and 20 were indefinite, as applicants have not distinctly claimed the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed as applicants have now included the limitation of the amino acid sequence

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